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Laser system and method for operating laser system

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(54) **Title:** LASER SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPERATING LASER SYSTEM

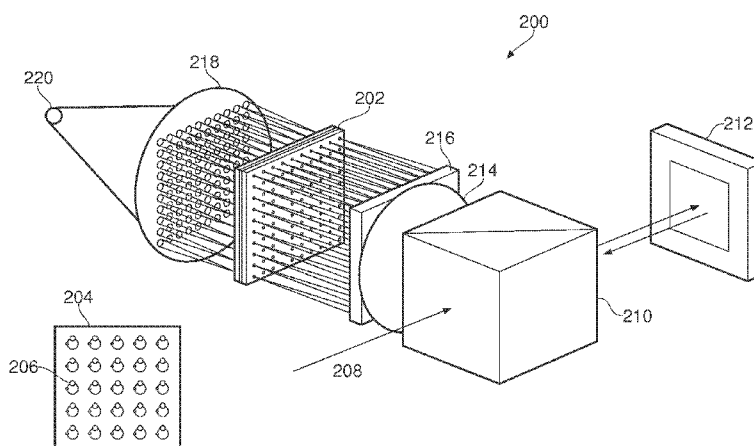


FIG. 4

(57) **Abstract:** A laser system comprises a pump source, a lasing medium and a spatial intensity control means. The pump source is operable to generate pumping radiation directed to the lasing medium via the spatial intensity control means. The position of the lasing medium is fixed with respect to the position of the pump source. The lasing medium has a spatial extent to allow the pumping radiation to excite lasing at different locations in the lasing medium over time. The spatial intensity profile of the pumping radiation incident at the lasing medium is varied over time using the spatial intensity control means. The spatial intensity is controlled by time-varying reflection, refraction and/or interference of the pumping radiation.